

Educational Impact Statement

Proposal for a Significant Change in the Utilization of School Building M620: The Phase-out and Eventual Closure of Norman Thomas High School (02M620) and Co-Location of Two New Schools, 02M427 and 02M432, in M620

I. Summary of Proposal

Beginning in the 2010-2011 school year, Norman Thomas High School (02M620, “Norman Thomas”), an existing school serving grades 9-12, will be phased out of operation. Norman Thomas is housed in school building M620 (hereinafter referred to as “M620”), located at 111 East 33 Street, Manhattan in Community School District 2 (“District 2”). There are no other schools currently located in M620. The 2008-2009 target utilization rate of M620 was 98%, and its target capacity was 2,189.

In the 2010-2011 school year, Norman Thomas will begin phasing out one grade per year. Grade 9 will be phased out in 2010-2011; grade 10 will be phased out in 2011-2012; and grade 11 will be phased out in 2012-2013. Norman Thomas will close in June 2013.

The proposal to phase out and eventually close Norman Thomas is based on the Department of Education’s (“DOE”) determination that the school lacks the capacity to significantly improve student performance. Under the DOE’s accountability framework, schools that receive an overall grade of D or F on the Progress Report are subject to school improvement measures. If no significant progress is made over time, a leadership change (subject to contractual obligations), restructuring, or closure is possible. The same is true for schools receiving a C for three years in a row and for schools that the Chancellor has determined lack the necessary capacity to improve student performance. Decisions about the consequences a school will face are based on the school’s Progress Report grades, Quality Review scores, and a variety of other factors. Additional factors contributing to decisions regarding school restructuring, closure, or phase-out include the demand for the school’s services, structural factors such as principal tenure and special population concentration, comparative quality of existing options, and potential replacement options.

Norman Thomas received a D on both its 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 Progress Reports. Norman Thomas is eligible for a phase-out in accordance with the criteria set forth by the DOE. In 2009, the DOE conducted an assessment of the school’s capacity to improve student performance and, after consultation with internal stakeholders, determined that Norman Thomas had not made significant progress for its students. Due to the school’s failure to make sufficient progress, the DOE now proposes the phase-out of the school.

The phase-out and eventual closure of Norman Thomas will create available space in M620 to house new high schools, 02M427 and 02M432. The DOE proposes to phase-in the two new high schools as Norman Thomas phases out. Both 02M427 and 02M432 will open in 2010-2011 with grade 9 and eventually will serve grades 9-12 at scale. The phase-out and eventual closure of Norman Thomas and the phase-ins of 02M427 and 02M432 address the need to provide higher quality high school options throughout the City.

II. Enrollment, Admissions, and School Performance for Norman Thomas

A. Enrollment

Current Grades Served:	9-12
Current Enrollment (As of 10/31/2009 ATIS Unaudited Register):	2,179
Grades Served 2010-2011:	10-12
Projected 2010-2011 Enrollment:	1,500-1,750

B. Admissions

Students had applied to Norman Thomas through the citywide high school admissions process. Norman Thomas will no longer be a choice for the citywide high school admissions process.

C. School Performance

Progress Report Grades

2007-2008:	D
2008-2009:	D

Graduation Rate (2008-2009): Four year: 42.7%

Quality Review Scores

2007-2008:	Proficient
2008-2009:	Proficient

Accountability Status

Overall Federal Status (2008-2009): Restructuring - Year 2

Overall State Status
(2008-2009): Requiring Academic Progress - Year 7

Status with
Differentiated
Accountability
(2009-2010): Restructuring (Advanced) - Comprehensive

To access school performance and accountability information for Norman Thomas, please visit <http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/02/M620/AboutUs/Statistics>.

Average Attendance
(2008-2009): 74.5%

To access copies of the Attendance Report for Norman Thomas, please visit <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/data/stats/attendance>.

III. Proposed or Potential Use of M620

The phase-out and eventual closure of Norman Thomas will create available space in M620 to house two new high schools: 02M427 and 02M432. Both schools will open in 2010-2011, and will serve grade 9 in 2010 and eventually will serve grades 9-12 at scale. 02M427 and 02M432 will each serve about 400-500 students at scale. Students will apply to 02M427 and 02M432 through the citywide high school admissions process.

IV. Impact of the Proposed Phase-Out on the Community, Existing Schools and Students

A. Community Ramifications

Approximately 2,180 high school seats will be eliminated by the phase-out of Norman Thomas. However, these seats will be recovered through the phase-ins of 02M427 and 02M432 and other new high schools throughout the City.

B. Existing Schools

During the course of Norman Thomas's phase-out and the phase-in of both 02M427 and 02M432, all schools will have sufficient instructional space to serve students in M620, per the citywide instructional footprint. After implementation of the phase-out of Norman Thomas and the phase-in of the two new high schools, 02M427 and 02M432 will have sufficient space to operate at full organizational capacity. A space plan for all schools in the building will be developed based on the standard instructional footprint. Decisions regarding the programming of shared spaces in M620 will be made by school leaders.

To access the citywide instructional footprint, please visit the DOE's Web site at http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/ronlyres/8CF30F41-DE25-4C30-92DE-731949919FC3/65901/NYCDOE_Instructional_Footprint_revisedMay2009_noco.pdf.

C. Students

All current Norman Thomas students in grades 9-12 will have the opportunity to graduate from Norman Thomas, assuming they continue to earn credits on schedule. Current Norman Thomas students enrolled in grade 9 for the first time will have the opportunity to participate in the high schools admissions process so that they can begin in a different school as a grade 10 student in September 2010 (pending satisfactory completion of promotion criteria and grade 10 seat availability). Current Norman Thomas grade 10 students or students who are repeating grade 9 are encouraged to meet with their guidance counselors to explore their options for the 2010-2011 school year.

V. Initial Costs and Savings

Once the phase-out is fully implemented, approximately \$310,000 in annual fixed funding currently allocated to Norman Thomas will be repurposed by the DOE.

New district schools are provided with a fixed per school allocation and a variable per pupil allocation of funds to cover start-up costs. Based on current one-time allocations for new schools, in 2010-2011, 02M427 and 02M432 will each receive a fixed allocation of \$80,000 and also approximately \$51,300 based on variable per pupil allocations. In addition, 02M427 and 02M432 will each receive approximately \$32,400 based on variable per pupil allocations throughout the course of their phase-ins.

In 2010-2011, 02M427 and 02M432 will each receive approximately \$225,000 in fixed Fair Student Funding foundation allocations and an additional \$85,000 in Children First supplemental funding.

VI. Effect on Personnel Needs and Costs of Instruction, Administration, Transportation and Other Support Services

A. Personnel

All administrative staff and non-pedagogical positions at Norman Thomas will be eliminated over the course of the phase-out.

All teaching positions assigned to Norman Thomas will be eliminated over the course of the phase-out. However, the elimination of these assignments will not necessarily result in an overall loss of teaching positions within the citywide system due to transfers to other existing assignments and the creation of additional pedagogical positions with the phase-in of new/replacement schools.

02M427 and 02M432 are expected to hire additional teachers as each new grade is added. All new schools opening in phase-out campuses must adhere to Article 18-D of the United Federation of Teachers (UFT) contract. Article 18-D requires that if a sufficient number of displaced staff from the closing or phasing-out school applies, at least 50% of the new school's pedagogical positions shall be selected from among the appropriately

licensed most senior applicants from the closing/phasing-out school who meet the new school's qualifications. Guidance counselor, lab specialist, school secretary and paraprofessional positions are also subject to Article 18-D.

B. Costs of Instruction

Once the phase-out is fully implemented, the DOE will cease to allocate or repurpose all funds currently allocated to Norman Thomas High School. Please note that per capita funds no longer allocated to the school as a result of this proposal do not represent a reduction in total system costs.

Once each phase-in is fully complete, 02M427 and 02M432 are each expected to receive approximately \$2,200,000 annually in per capita funding as a result of the increased enrollment. This estimate is based on current Fair Student Funding (FSF) per capita allocations of grade level weights. Student achievement and need-based allocations were not taken into account in these estimates because students' achievement levels and needs cannot be predicted. These additional funds may, at the school's discretion, be used for additional teaching positions, curriculum materials, general instructional supplies, administration, or other support services. Please note that per capita funds no longer allocated to the school as a result of this proposal do not represent additional system costs. FSF covers basic instructional needs and is allocated to each school based on the number and need-level of students at the school. All money allocated through FSF can be used at the principal's discretion. All dollar amounts are based on FY10 allocations and are subject to change based on adjustments to the DOE's overall operating budget.

C. Administration

All school supervisor and/or administrator positions assigned to Norman Thomas will be eliminated as a result of the phase-out.

New schools are expected to hire school supervisor and/or administrator personnel as needed.

D. Transportation

Throughout the course of proposal implementation, transportation will continue to be provided pursuant to Chancellor's Regulation A-801. To access Chancellor's Regulation A-801, please visit the DOE's Web site at <http://schools.nyc.gov/RulesPolicies/ChancellorsRegulations>.

VII. Building Information

A. Building Type, Age and Physical Condition

M620 is a high school building that was built in 1975. The building received an overall rating of 2.73 out of 5 on the 2008-2009 Building Condition Assessment Survey

("BCAS"). To view the key for BCAS ratings, please visit
<http://schools.nyc.gov/Documents/BCAS/BCAS%20Key.pdf>.

To view the 2008-2009 BCAS Report for M620, please visit
<http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/02/M620/AboutUs/Statistics>.

2008-2009 Target capacity:	2,189
2008-2009: Target utilization rate:	98%

The utilization and capacity information is from the Enrollment, Capacity and Utilization Report which is the standard by which the DOE measures the maximum capacity of the building compared to the enrollment. To access the Enrollment, Capacity and Utilization Report, please visit <http://schools.nyc.gov/Offices/SCA/Reports/CapPlan/default.htm>.

B. Fiscal Year 2009 Maintenance Costs

Labor:	\$39,142.64
Materials:	\$28,554.10
Maintenance and Repair Contracts:	\$66,988.69
Service Contracts:	\$242,244.72
Custodial Operations	
Materials:	\$21,707.37
Custodial Allocation:	\$670,874.30

C. Fiscal Year 2009 Energy Costs

Electric:	\$487,036.00
Gas:	\$238.00
Oil:	\$0.00

D. Recent and Planned Improvements

Recent improvements include a bell system upgrade, a public address system upgrade, and low voltage electrical systems installation.

Planned improvements include another bell system upgrade and low voltage electrical systems installation.

E. Special Features

The building has art rooms, an auditorium, a cafeteria, a gymnasium, a library, computer rooms, and science labs.

School building M620 is functionally accessible.